PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE STATEMENT

Service and philanthropy are central values of the Iowa State sorority and fraternity community. In every chapter, giving promise of service is tied back to the chapter through mottos, mission statements, and rituals. While the words are common, service and philanthropy remain difficult ideals to define and therefore we struggle as individuals, and as a community, to live out our vow to serve.

♦ What is service?

- Service: a non-paying job performed by one person or a group of people for the benefit of the community or its institutions. Can be summarized as giving of your time and talents.
- Service strengthens ourselves as well as others.
- It is important to note serving is different than helping. Helping is not a relationship between equals. When we serve, there are no inequalities, and we do not diminish the self-esteem, sense of worth, or integrity from the people whom we serve.
- Remember when filling out service hours or instructing members to fill service hours out at the end of a semester refer to this document for assistance.
- Examples of service:
  - Donating blood
  - Leadership committees (Dance Marathon, STARS, Up ‘til Dawn, etc.)
  - Letter-making or advocating (veterans, hospitals, etc.)
  - Mentoring (YSS or after-school program)

♦ What is philanthropy?

- Philanthropy: the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes. Giving through treasures; monetary gifts, item donations, etc.
- Philanthropy in some cases is different from charity. While a charity looks at relieving the pain from a particular social problem, philanthropy looks to solve the root cause.
  - The phrase 'Giving a man a fish feeds him for a moment, while teaching him to fish feeds him for a lifetime' is the guiding force behind philanthropies.
- Examples of philanthropy:
  - Raising money for your organization you support
  - Organizing a concession stand session to fundraise for clubs/organizations
  - Attending and donating money to another's organization and chapter's event
Common Misconceptions

- All forms of giving and community awareness are essential components of our commitment to serve and individual growth. However, giving takes on different forms. Observe graphic on page 1.
- **Awareness**
  - Some events are not philanthropic or community service but instead are *awareness*-focused. Individuals who attend these events are solely growing in their knowledge of an organization or topic through reflection or lecture rather than giving.
  - It could be said that the organization hosting this event is performing community service, as they are the leadership behind the event but attendees are not.

Why do we serve?

- **The Golden Circle**
  - The What: What the event or product is.
  - The How: How the event/product is unique.
  - The Why: Why is the purpose behind the event/product. This is the whole reason the event/product exists.
- It should be the main focus behind every community service event or philanthropy to convince others of the “why.” Individuals should leave the experience knowing more and growing from the experience.

Resources

- Simon Sinek: “How Great Leaders Inspire Action”
- “Helping, Fixing or Serving?” by Rachel Naomi Remen
- Nonprofit Quarterly: “What is philanthropy?”

Model created by Simon Sinek

---

Iowa State Sorority and Fraternity Community Resource
Contact: sfemain@iastate.edu